

Kindly amend claims 2-4 and 7 to read as follows:

2. (Once Amended) The pipe member according to claim 8, wherein an end of the multiple-pipe structure section is provided with a tapered section of which the amount of diameter expansion gradually increases.

3. (Once Amended) The pipe member according to claim 8, wherein one metal pipe forming the multiple pipes is of a different material than the other metal pipes.

4. (Once Amended) The pipe member according to claim 8, wherein one metal pipe forming the multiple pipes is made of aluminum and the other metal pipes are made of steels.

7. (Once Amended) The pipe member according to claim 10, wherein the diameter of the multiple-pipe structure section is expanded.

Please add claims 8-11 to read as follows:

8. (New) A pipe member having metal pipes of different diameters, said pipe member prepared by a process comprising:

moving one of a metal pipe of a larger diameter and a metal pipe of a smaller diameter, said metal pipe of a smaller diameter having an outside, said metal pipe of a larger diameter engaging the outside of the metal pipe of the smaller diameter to provide a multiple pipe structure in a predetermined area in a longitudinal direction; and

expanding integrally the multiple pipe structure to expand a diameter of the multiple pipe structure.

9. (New) A method for making a pipe member from metal pipes having different diameters, comprising:

moving one of a metal pipe of a larger diameter and a metal pipe of a smaller diameter, said metal pipe of a smaller diameter having an outside, said metal pipe of a larger diameter engaging the outside of the metal pipe of the smaller diameter to provide a multiple pipe structure in a predetermined area in a longitudinal direction; and

expanding integrally the multiple pipe structure to expand a diameter of the multiple pipe structure.

10. (New) A pipe member having metal pipes of substantially the same diameter, said pipe member prepared by a process comprising:

holding a first of said metal pipes in a first clamping die, said first clamping die having a first axis;

holding a first portion of a second of said metal pipes in a second clamping die, said second metal pipe having a second portion extending outwardly from said second clamping die, said second clamping die having a second axis, said second portion of the second metal pipe having a diameter;

changing the diameter of the second portion of the second metal pipe by aligning the first and second axes and advancing one of said first and second dies toward one another so that said first and second metal pipes are fitted together.

11. (New) A method for making a pipe member from metal pipes having substantially the same diameter, comprising:

holding a first of said metal pipes in a first clamping die, said first clamping die having a first axis;

holding a first portion of a second of said metal pipes in a second clamping die, said second metal pipe having a second portion extending outwardly from said second clamping die, said second clamping die having a second axis, said second portion of the second metal pipe having a diameter;

changing the diameter of the second portion of the second metal pipe by aligning the first and second axes and advancing one of said first and second dies toward one another so that said first and second metal pipes are fitted together.